



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2011.0 - Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Proposed Products and Services, 2016

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Summary

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This publication has been superseded by 2011.0.55.001 - Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016.

The ABS Census of Population and Housing provides a wealth of information about Australia's people, their dwellings and where they live. The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and one of the most important, especially in providing information for small geographic areas and for small population groups, as well as for the country as a whole. The value of the Census lies not only in the information collected in the Census, which provides a comprehensive picture of Australia, but also in the opportunities to integrate Census data with other datasets to increase the range of insights provided and ensure the Census delivers maximum benefit to governments and the community. The next Census will take place on 9 August, 2016.

Planning is already well underway for the 2016 Census output program. The ABS is committed to releasing the results from the Census through a range of innovative products -- QuickStats, Community Profiles, DataPacks, and TableBuilder. The results from the 2016 Census will be released through these products in two main stages, starting from mid 2017.

The majority of the data will continue to be available free-of-charge on the ABS website. The ABS website also provides help information and tutorials for people who are using the Census products for the first time.

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES

The ABS conducted a user review in 2014 to gain feedback about the 2011 Census products. The review confirmed that users are generally satisfied with the current products and elicited a number of suggestions to improve them, including upgrades to improve stability and performance.

Minor enhancements to products will be investigated and where possible, implemented in time for the 2016 data release. Further information will be provided in *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

One key change for the 2016 data release is that DataPacks will be an entirely on-line

product. There will no longer be an option to purchase DataPack DVDs. They will be free-of-charge for download from the ABS website.

DATA COLLECTION

The 2016 Census will introduce significant changes to the way the Census is conducted, with a move to a digital-first approach. About two-thirds of Australians are expected to respond online in 2016, double the 33% online response in 2011. Further information about how the 2016 Census will be conducted can be found in *Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016* (cat. no. 2008.0).

SCOPE CHANGES

It is expected that in 2016, for the first time, people in Norfolk Island on Census night will be included in the Australian Census, following the passage of the *Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015*.

CLASSIFICATIONS

While most classifications used in the 2016 Census will be the same as those used in the 2011 Census, a small number will be undergoing review during 2016. Full details of all 2016 classifications and variables will be available in the *Census Dictionary, Australia, 2016* (cat. no. 2901.0) to be released in May 2016.

TOPICS

The consultation process for the 2016 Census revealed that there was a strong desire to see continuity in the topics maintained, so that changes in Australia can be measured over time. After a rigorous review of topics, it was decided that the 2016 Census would repeat the topics included in the past two Censuses.

GEOGRAPHY

The 2016 Census data will be released using the 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), which was first introduced in the 2011 Census. The 2016 version of the ASGS is likely to be very similar to the 2011 edition of the ASGS, apart from some minor updates made primarily by splitting existing regions. This will enable a high level of comparability between the 2011 and the 2016 Census. Information about ASGS changes will be provided in *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

For the 2016 Census, data will no longer be produced for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) from the Australian Statistical Geographical Classification (ASGC). In 2011, data was produced for SLAs to assist users in transitioning from the ASGC to the ASGS. Local Government Area (LGA) data will continue to be available as part of the ASGS into the future.

For further information on ABS Statistical Geography see www.abs.gov.au/geography.

POPULATION COUNTS

Similar to the 2011 Census, counts will be released on two different bases -- place of enumeration and place of usual residence.

Census counts for place of enumeration are based on each person's actual location on

Census night. Overseas visitors are included while Australians overseas are excluded.

Census counts for place of usual residence are based on where each person usually lives, regardless of where they were on Census night. Overseas visitors and Australians overseas are excluded.

The data for most products will be based on where people usually live (place of usual residence). Some data will only be available for place of enumeration (where people were on Census night). All data will clearly state which count method has been used.

MICRODATA

The ABS is currently reviewing its microdata access services in order to increase the ease of access to microdata through a wider range of options than is currently available. It is anticipated that 2016 Census data will be made available in a Census Sample File (CSF) and that this will be available in 2018.

Further information about Census microdata can be found on the Census Sample File page on the ABS website.

INTEGRATING CENSUS DATA WITH OTHER DATASETS

Data integration will continue to be a central element of the Census and is an increasingly important element of effectively and efficiently delivering the broader ABS work program.

Integration initiatives already undertaken by the ABS have successfully demonstrated that linking Census data with other datasets provides new insights into areas and groups of interest within Australian society, such as education, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These initiatives have contributed to a richer statistical view of Australian society and an improved evidence base for decision making for the community, researchers and policy makers, in a cost effective way.

FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED OUTPUT

If you would like to provide the ABS with feedback on any proposed changes or Census products in general, please submit comments via the feedback form on the ABS website, by quoting '2016 Census Products' in the 'Your feedback' box.

Confirmed release dates and information that will be included in each release will be provided in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

TableBuilder Basic

TABLEBUILDER BASIC

What is it?

TableBuilder Basic allows users to build their own tables from a range of Census variables. Users can access Census data for most topics including age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more, from small areas such as Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) to the whole of Australia. Users can also view and export data in a variety of

graphs and maps.

TableBuilder Basic is a free product.

Who is it for?

TableBuilder Basic is designed for clients with some experience using Census data and skills in constructing basic data tables. However, there are self-help tutorials available on the ABS website to guide first time users.

What does it do?

TableBuilder Basic allows users to:

- construct and customise tables of Census data (up to 300,000 cells)
- create and save custom geographies and data items
- thematically map or graph data
- download maps and graphs.

There will be twelve TableBuilder Basic databases:

- Cultural and Language Diversity
- Education and Qualifications
- Employment, Income and Unpaid Work
- Disability, Carers and Need for Assistance
- Children and Childcare
- Usual Address and Internal Migration
- Persons and Relationships
- Persons in Private Dwellings
- Persons in Non-Private Dwellings
- Family Characteristics
- Dwelling Characteristics
- Household Income and Expenditure.

To gain access to TableBuilder Basic, users can register via the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS website.

When will it be available?

Users can register for TableBuilder Basic at any time. The 2016 Census first release data will be added when it becomes available in mid 2017. Data from the 2006 and 2011 Censuses will continue to be available in TableBuilder Basic.

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

What does it look like?

Visit the TableBuilder page.

2016 Census Products

2016 CENSUS PRODUCTS

2016 Census data will be released through the same successful suite of products as the 2011 Census.

Information about each of the products can be found in this section.



QuickStats ★

Provides a simple at-a-glance summary of Census statistics for a selected area.
Available free on the ABS website.



Community Profiles ★

Detailed Census data for selected areas in Excel spreadsheet format.
Available free on the ABS website.



DataPacks ★★

Detailed Census data for all geographic areas that can be loaded and manipulated in analysis systems.
Available free on the ABS website. Requires registration.



TableBuilder Basic ★★

Self-help tool which enables users to create tables, graphs and maps of Census data from a range of Census variables.
Available free on the ABS website. Requires registration.



TableBuilder Pro (\$) ★★★

Advanced self-help tool which enables users to create tables, graphs and maps of Census data with the full set of Census variables.
TableBuilder Pro is a charged product. Requires registration.



Census Sample File (\$) ★★★

A confidentialised sample of Census unit record data for modelling and analysis.
The Census Sample File is a charged product. Requires registration.



Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (\$) ★★★

A random 5% sample from the 2011 Census linked to records from the 2016 Census.
The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset is a charged product. Requires registration.



★ Easy to use. Basic statistical skills only.

★★ Intermediate product. Requires skills in building tables and working with statistical data.

★★★ Advanced product. Requires detailed understanding of Census concepts and statistical analysis skills.

(\$)

Charge applies.

QuickStats

QUICKSTATS

What is it?

QuickStats is a fast, simple way to understand an area or a topic of interest at a glance.

QuickStats for Areas gives a quick snapshot of Census information for a chosen area. It includes data on people, their families and dwellings in which they live.

QuickStats for Topics provides an overview of all the different data items from the Census.

QuickStats features are as follows:

- snapshot summaries of Census data for a selected region or topic
- graphic representations of the data
- easy to use on-line product
- easy navigation to other products to further analyse the data
- easy to print, or copy the content straight into documents or presentations.

Who is it for?

QuickStats is for anyone who wants quick summary information about an area or topic.

It is designed for:

- people wanting simple Census information
- business owners
- students.

It is frequently used for assignments, presentations, proposals, purchasing and travel planning.

If QuickStats doesn't give users the level of detail they are looking for, they can explore the data more deeply through the direct links to Community Profiles and TableBuilder Basic.

When will it be available?

Data from the 2016 Census will be available in QuickStats from mid 2017, as part of the first data release.

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

What does it look like?

Visit the QuickStats page.

Community Profiles

COMMUNITY PROFILES

What are they?

The Community Profiles provide a comprehensive statistical picture of areas in Excel

spreadsheet format.

Tables of Census data are presented in a series of spreadsheets and show characteristics relating to people, families and dwellings. They cover most topics on the Census form.

Six profiles make up the Census Community Profiles series:

- Basic Community
- Place of Enumeration
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Time Series
- Expanded Community and
- Working Population.

Who are they for?

Community Profiles are for those interested in researching, planning or analysing small or large geographic areas.

What do they do?

Community Profiles can be used to compare the social, economic and demographic characteristics of different geographic areas.

Basic Community Profile

This profile contains a series of tables showing basic characteristics of persons, families and dwellings in a selected area.

The data will be based on place of usual residence, i.e. where people usually live.

Place of Enumeration Profile

This profile provides a series of tables showing basic characteristics of persons, families and dwellings in a selected area.

The data will be based on place of enumeration, i.e. where people were counted on Census night, rather than where they usually live.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile

This profile has a series of tables showing characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, families and dwellings in a selected area.

Some tables include comparisons with the non-Indigenous population.

The data will be based on place of usual residence (i.e. where people usually live).

Time Series Profile

This profile compares data from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses (where the classifications are comparable). Where classifications have been revised between each Census, data will be provided on the classification used for the 2016 Census. To provide comparability between Censuses, the revised classifications will be concoded, and

footnotes added to the tables to indicate this. Relevant concordance files will be available from the ABS website.

The data will be based on place of usual residence.

Expanded Community Profile

This profile is the most comprehensive profile in the series. The tables contain more detailed versions of the standard Basic Community Profiles, plus additional tables relating to relationships within a family, living costs and dwelling structures.

The data will be based on place of usual residence.

Working Population Profile

This profile has a series of tables on characteristics of employed persons in a selected area.

This data will be based on 'Journey to Work' areas, i.e. a person's place of work.

What geographies will be available for the profiles?

PROFILES						
GEOGRAPHY	Basic	Expanded	Place of Enumeration	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	Time Series	Working Population
Australia	*	*	*	*	*	*
State/Territory	*	*	*	*	*	*
Statistical Area Level 4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Statistical Area Level 3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Statistical Area Level 2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Statistical Area Level 1	*		*			
Greater Capital City Statistical Area	*	*	*	*	*	*
Significant Urban Area	*	*	*			
Remoteness Area	*		*	*		
Urban Centre Locality	*		*			
Local Government Area	*	*	*	*	*	*
State Suburb	*		*			
Postal Area	*		*			
Indigenous Structure				*		
State/Commonwealth	*		*			
Electoral Division						
Place of Work						*

* Profiles available

When will they be available?

Data from the 2016 Census will be available in Community Profiles from mid 2017, as part of the first data release.

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

What do they look like?

Visit the Community Profiles page.

DataPacks

DATAPACKS

What are they?

DataPacks contain data for all geographies in Australia, along with the digital boundaries.

They include the main Census characteristics for people, families and dwellings, such as age, education, income, housing and occupation.

There are six Community Profile DataPacks and an Estimated Resident Population DataPack that make up the Census DataPacks series.

Profile DataPacks reflect the same structure as the Community Profiles:

- Basic Community
- Place of Enumeration
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Time Series
- Expanded Community and
- Working Population.

DataPack data is provided in CSV format.

Who are they for?

They are designed for:

- users with existing databases or analysis systems e.g. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), other mapping or tabulation systems where Census data can be imported
- users who want access to data for the full range of ASGS areas and boundaries.

What do they do?

The DataPacks provide comprehensive data files and associated GIS boundary files in a format suitable for loading into proprietary software and/or client custom-built systems.

They can be downloaded and imported into existing systems ready for manipulation.

Changes to DataPacks

For the 2016 data release, DataPacks will be an entirely on-line product. There will no longer be an option to purchase DataPack DVDs. They will be free-of-charge for download from the ABS website.

When will they be available?

Data from the 2016 Census will be available in DataPacks from mid 2017, as part of the first data release.

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

What do they look like?

Visit the DataPacks page.

TableBuilder Pro

TABLEBUILDER PRO

What is it?

TableBuilder Pro is the ultimate Census data analysis tool. It provides the full range of Census variables and supports a wide range of cross tabulations.

It allows users to extract and manipulate an unlimited number of Census tables and create graphs and thematic maps of Census data. It also has more sophisticated features which allow the creation of recodes and custom geographies that can be shared with other licensed users.

Users have access to ALL topics including age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation and more, from small areas such as Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) to the whole of Australia.

TableBuilder Pro is a charged product. For information about licence pricing, see Microdata prices.

Who is it for?

TableBuilder Pro is for experienced Census data users who want ultimate freedom to create large and complex tables of Census data.

What does it do?

TableBuilder Pro allows users to build complex customised tables.

The key features of TableBuilder Pro are as follows:

- access to the full range of Census variables
- create or import custom geographies easily so they can be shared with other licensed TableBuilder Pro users
- compare data from different geographic areas
- create recodes to suit unique data needs
- construct large tables of up to 5,000,000 cells
- the 'large table mode' feature submits tables for processing, reducing the load on

the user's computer

- save tables within the TableBuilder Pro for later use
- thematically map or graph data and export in a variety of formats
- access to advanced training and customer support.

There will be five TableBuilder Pro databases:

- Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence
- Counting Persons, Place of Enumeration
- Counting Families, Place of Usual Residence
- Counting Dwellings, Place of Enumeration
- Counting Employed Persons, Place of Work.

To gain access to TableBuilder Pro, users can register via the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS website.

When will it be available?

Users can register for TableBuilder Pro at any time. The 2016 Census first release data will be added when it becomes available in mid 2017. Data from the 2006 Census and 2011 Census will continue to be available in TableBuilder Pro.

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

What does it look like?

Visit the TableBuilder page.

Census Sample File

CENSUS SAMPLE FILE

What is it?

The ABS is currently reviewing its microdata access services in order to increase the ease of access to microdata through a wider range of options than is currently available. However, it is anticipated that 2016 Census data will be made available in a Census Sample File (CSF).

The CSF is a comprehensive Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) of Census variables, containing a small random sample of private households and associated persons, and a small random sample of persons in non-private dwellings. The format of the 2016 CSF is expected to be consistent with previous releases. Further information will be provided in *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

Further information about Census microdata can be found on the Census Sample Files page on the ABS website.

Who is it for?

The CSF is aimed at advanced users of Census data and is released under strict access conditions. Clients are required to sign an undertaking stating that the information will only be used for statistical purposes.

Each request is subject to approval by the Australian Statistician before the CSF can be released.

Users of the CSF include:

- university staff and students
- commercial clients
- State Government users
- Commonwealth agencies
- private sector.

Special arrangements exist between the ABS and Universities Australia, making CURFs, such as the CSF, more readily available to Australian universities for research. It is expected that the 2016 CSF will be available through this arrangement.

When will it be available?

The CSF is planned for release in 2018.

How much will it cost?

For information about pricing, see Microdata prices.

Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset

AUSTRALIAN CENSUS LONGITUDINAL DATASET

What is it?

The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLGD) uses data from the Census to build a longitudinal picture of Australian society.

The ACLGD will bring together a 5% random sample from the 2011 Census with records from the 2016 Census, using data linkage techniques without name and address.

In taking a longitudinal view of Australians, the ACLGD uncovers new insights into the dynamics and transitions that drive social and economic change over time, conveying how these vary for diverse population groups and geographies. The dataset covers all areas of Census data including:

- demographic information
- education and labour force data
- income
- caring responsibilities and disability
- voluntary work

- household characteristics
- family composition.

It is envisaged that subsequent Censuses will be added in the future, as well as administrative data sets.

Further information about the ACLD can be found on the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset page on the ABS website and the publication Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2006-2011 (cat. no. 2080.0).

When will it be available?

The 2006-2011 ACLD is currently available in TableBuilder and as a Microdata Product in the ABS Data Laboratory. An updated ACLD, to be released in October 2015, will include a number of enhancements, such as:

- more finely disaggregated data items, for example, year of arrival in Australia in single years and religion affiliation at the 3 digit level
- additional Census variables, such as Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) and dwelling location
- a new weight to better account for migration between 2006 and 2011 and
- three data items from the Settlements Data Base that are already included in the Australian Census Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID) TableBuilder file.

The next ACLD with 2016 Census data is planned for release in 2018.

Information on how to access the ACLD can be found on the How to Apply for Microdata page on the ABS website.

How much will it cost?

For information about pricing, see Microdata prices.

Analytical Products

ANALYTICAL PRODUCTS

Information about each of the analytical products can be found in this section.



Census Analytical Articles ★

Articles on a range of topics that showcase stories from the 2016 Census.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples ★

Census data and publications with a focus on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.



Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas ★★

Data to help analyse the socio-economic wellbeing of Australian communities.



★ Easy to use. Basic statistical skills only.

★★ Intermediate product. Requires skills in building tables and working with statistical data.

★★★ Advanced product. Requires detailed understanding of Census concepts and statistical analysis skills.

(\$) Charge applies.

Analytical Articles

CENSUS ANALYTICAL ARTICLES

What are they?

The Census Analysis Articles will be a series of articles based on the results of the 2016 Census. They will be available free-of-charge from the ABS website.

The format and content of these articles is still under development. Further information will be provided in *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

When will they be available?

Articles are planned to be released progressively on the ABS website starting in mid 2017.

Analysis Article topics. Have your say.

The ABS will consult further with Census users on the selection of topics for the Analysis Articles. The consultation will be undertaken through the ABS website.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

Data from the 2016 Census about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is expected to be provided through the same Census products used in 2011 -- QuickStats, Community Profiles, DataPacks and TableBuilder. The majority of the data will continue to be available free-of-charge on the ABS website.

Census of Population and Housing - Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 2075.0) contains counts of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population at the state/territory, capital city/balance of state and Indigenous geography levels.

Census of Population and Housing - Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (cat. no. 2076.0) contains a range of statistics on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population including: population structure and distribution, mobility, household composition, language, education, work, income and housing. This information is published at the Australia level.

Further details confirming release dates, the variables available for each product and

confirmation of analytical publications will be available in *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR AREAS

What is it?

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) can help users understand the level of social and economic wellbeing of a region.

SEIFA can be used for research into the relationship between socio-economic status and various health and educational outcomes. It helps to identify areas that require funding and services; and identify new business opportunities.

SEIFA is a set of four indexes which rank geographical areas across Australia. These indexes are ranked by a score based on the characteristics of the people, families and dwellings in these areas. This can be used to determine where the wealthy live; where the disadvantaged live; and where the highly skilled and educated live.

Each index contains a different set of socio-economic information and is available right down to a Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1).

They are:

- Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)
- Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)
- Index of Economic Resources (IER)
- Index of Education and Occupation (IEO).

SEIFA uses a broad definition of relative socio-economic disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.

While SEIFA represents an average of all people living in an area, it does not represent the individual situation of each person. Larger areas are more likely to have greater diversity of people and households.

Who is it for?

SEIFA is for those wanting to investigate the socio-economic wellbeing of Australian communities.

It can also be used for:

- targeting areas for business or services
- demographic polling
- strategic planning
- design of sample surveys
- social research.

When will it be available?

SEIFA will be released in 2018 and will be available free-of-charge on the ABS website.

What does it look like?

Visit the SEIFA page.

Reference and Educational Products

REFERENCE AND EDUCATIONAL PRODUCTS

Information about each of the reference and educational products can be found in this section.



Census Dictionary ★

A complete listing of all the data items available from the Census and helpful information to make sense of it all.



Data Quality Statements ★

Information about the quality of Census data.



How Australia Takes a Census ★

Outlines how the 2016 Census will be conducted.



On-line Tutorials ★

Tutorials designed to assist clients to use data output products and understand Census data.



Census Undercount ★★★

How the Estimated Resident Population is adjusted for the net Census undercount.



Easy to use. Basic statistical skills only.



Intermediate product. Requires skills in building tables and working with statistical data.



Advanced product. Requires detailed understanding of Census concepts and statistical analysis skills.




Charge applies.

Census Dictionary

2016 CENSUS DICTIONARY

What is it?

The *Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0) is a comprehensive reference guide. It describes the full range of standard data items available for use in Census products and the classifications used in coding these responses.

It is available by clicking on the  next to a chosen topic when using Census on-line products or directly from the ABS website.

Who is it for?

Anyone who wants to know more information about what data is available from the Census.

What does it include?

The Dictionary will:

- have a full list of all standard output data items and associated classifications
- have a glossary with definitions of Census terms
- provide information on how to determine and specify data requirements
- provide information about what's new in the 2016 Census and what has changed since the 2011 Census
- have intuitive on-line search functionality
- include sample copies of the 2016 Census paper forms for viewing and download.

When will it be available?

The 2016 Census Dictionary is planned for release on the ABS website in May 2016.

What does it look like?

Visit the Census Dictionary, 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0)

Data Quality Statements

CENSUS DATA QUALITY STATEMENTS

What are they?

The purpose of these statements is to communicate data quality information to users. The ABS aims to produce high quality data from the Census. Quality management of the range of different processes involved in the Census aims to minimise errors as much as possible. Therefore, it is important that users are alerted to any known quality issues and provided with a measure of any remaining error so data is used in an informed way.


Who are they for?

All users of Census data are encouraged to learn more about the underlying quality of the Census results.

What do they include?

Data Quality Statements are available for all standard data items from the Census. The statements provide information on:

- coding discrepancy rates where applicable
- processes and edits applied to the data, and
- imputation rates.

Data Quality Statements can be accessed by clicking on the  that appears next to each Census Classification in all Census on-line products.

The link will take users into the Census Dictionary where they can find out more about the data item, and associated classification, and access all the information contained in the Data Quality Statements for each item.

When will it be available?

General data quality information will be provided as soon as the data becomes available. More extensive data quality information will be appended later.

What do they look like?

Visit the Data Quality Statements page.

How Australia Takes a Census

HOW AUSTRALIA TAKES A CENSUS

What is it?

This publication outlines how the 2016 Census will be conducted.

There are two broad objectives that underpin the Census:

- to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night and the dwellings in which they live, and
- to provide timely, high quality and relevant data for small geographic areas and small population groups.

This publication describes the history of the Census, the process by which the 2016 Census was planned, the way it will be conducted and processed and the type of output that will be available.

Who is it for?

This publication is a useful reference guide for anyone interested in what the Census is and how it is conducted.

When will it be available?

How Australia Takes a Census (cat. no. 2903.0) will be published on the ABS website in March 2016.

On-line Tutorials

ON-LINE TUTORIALS

A range of on-line resources including tutorials and manuals, are available on the ABS website to help guide users through Census products and data.

What do they look like?

[View QuickStats - tutorials](#)

[View Community Profiles - tutorial](#)

[View DataPacks tutorials](#)

[View TableBuilder tutorials](#)

Census Undercount

CENSUS UNDERCOUNT

Census of Population and Housing - Details of Undercount (cat. no. 2940.0) provides the estimates of net undercount for the 2016 Census. It also includes information on how these estimates are calculated.

The information will be obtained through the 2016 Census Post Enumeration Survey. This survey helps to determine how many people were missed and how many were counted more than once.

The estimated net undercount is used for the purpose of deriving population estimates for Australia, the states and territories.

It will be available in mid 2017 and will be free on the ABS website.

Census Data Solutions

CENSUS DATA SOLUTIONS

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the ABS and one of the most important, providing information for small geographic areas and for small population groups as well as for the country as a whole. The value of the Census lies not only in the information collected, but also in the opportunities it presents in enabling the production of analytical indexes, estimates of homelessness and data integration.

DATA INTEGRATION

Census data becomes an even more valuable resource when it is combined with other information to provide more comprehensive insights about Australian households. Since 2006, the ABS has enhanced the value of Census data through integrating unit record data with other ABS and non-ABS datasets to create new datasets for statistical and research purposes.

Previous integration initiatives have successfully demonstrated that linking Census data with other datasets can be used to develop new datasets (including longitudinal datasets) and to improve the quality of key estimates derived from administrative sources as well as replacing the need to direct collect certain information from individuals. New insights have

been derived from the creation of the following initiatives:

- The Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, see Microdata: Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2011 (cat. no. 3417.0.55.001)
- The Mental Health Services - Census Data Integration Project, see Characteristics of people using mental health services and prescription medication, 2011 (cat. no. 4329.0).
- The Census Vocational Education and Training in Schools Dataset, see Outcomes from Vocational Education and Training in Schools, experimental estimates, Australia, 2006-2011 (cat. no. 4260.0)
- The Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, see Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2006-2011 (cat. no. 2080.0)
- The Indigenous Mortality Project, see Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2010-2012 (cat. no. 3302.0.55.003).

These initiatives have contributed to a richer statistical view of Australian society and an improved evidence base for decision making for the community, researchers and policy makers, in a cost effective way.

Data integration will continue to be a central element of the 2016 Census and is an increasingly important element of the broader ABS work program. The ABS has methodological and technological expertise to undertake data integration projects, a strong legislative basis to ensure the protection of sensitive personal information and a high level of community trust to underpin its activities as an accredited integrating authority.

HOMELESSNESS ESTIMATES

People who are experiencing homelessness are among the most marginalised people in Australia. Homelessness is one of the most potent examples of disadvantage in the community, and one of the most important markers of social exclusion. A successful Census of Population and Housing is one that counts everyone in Australia on Census night, no matter where they are staying or sleeping. While homelessness itself is not a characteristic that is directly collected in the Census, estimates of the homeless population may be derived from the Census using analytical techniques based on both the characteristics observed in the Census and assumptions about the way people may respond to Census questions. The estimates of people experiencing homelessness, derived from Census data and based on the ABS definition of homelessness, may have significant impacts on funding for services and programs and will provide insights into the living conditions of the homeless.

The ABS definition of homelessness adopted for the 2011 and 2016 Censuses is based on the categories, or 'operational groups', outlined in Information Paper - A Statistical Definition of Homelessness, 2012 (cat. no. 4922.0). This approach will enable comparison with 2001, 2006 and 2011 estimates of homelessness. The definition is also used for a number of ABS collections enabling the compilation of robust and transparent homelessness statistics across a range of ABS datasets.

ABS proposes to release the 2016 Census estimates of homelessness in an update to the publication, Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness, 2011 (cat. no. 2049.0).

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEXES FOR AREAS

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) seek to summarise the socio-economic

conditions of an area using relevant information from the Census of Population and Housing. The SEIFA indexes are widely used measures of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage at the Statistical Area Level (SA1) level. SEIFA uses a broad definition of relative socio-economic disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society. SEIFA can be used for research into the relationship between socio-economic status and various health and educational outcomes. It helps identify areas that require funding and services; and identify new business opportunities.

Further information is available in Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2011 (cat. no. 2033.0.55.001).

SEIFA based on 2016 Census data will be released in 2018, and will be available free-of-charge on the ABS website.

Services

SERVICES

There are a number of ways that users requiring further information or who have general questions about the Census can get information and help.

ABS WEBSITE

The Census pages on ABS website provide:

- general information about the Census
- detailed information on specific data items
- guidance as to which product best suits a user's data needs
- help, FAQs and tutorials about how to use the website products and understanding Census data.

Visit www.abs.gov.au/census for further information.

If users are unable to find what they need on the ABS website, they can call the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

CUSTOMISED DATA SERVICES

What are they and who are they for?

Customised Data Services are for users who are unable to find the data they need on-line in the format they require. Users are able to request customised datasets via the on-line Information Consultancy Form. This is a charged service (in accordance with Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines and ABS Pricing Policy).

Customised Data Services suits those who:

- want more detailed information than that available in the on-line products
- do not want to spend time extracting the data available on-line free-of-charge
- choose not to use TableBuilder

- would like an ABS expert to validate their TableBuilder output
- want historical Census data that is not available on-line
- want data in a different format or layout to what is available on-line.

What is available?

Customised Data Services include:

- output created and validated by an ABS data expert
- historical Census data
- output based on ASGC, ASGS (excluding Mesh Block) and a range of other geographic classifications
- data on a specific population of interest
- customised data formats not available from on-line products
- detailed cross-classified data using all output variables specified in the Census Dictionary
- training programs aimed at developing statistical skills to help make the best use of ABS information.

The following are NOT available through Customised Data Services:

- Census data at Mesh Block level or any form of customised aggregation of Mesh Block units. Information collected on the Census form for processing purposes only, such as date of birth information
- data that is considered of insufficient quality, such as tables that are sparsely populated or low count cells.

When will it be available?

Requests for customised data can be submitted at any time. The 'Advanced Ordering Service' will be available where users can specify request requirements prior to 2016 data release, so they have access to the data as soon as it is available.

Release Dates

RELEASE DATES

The first data release is planned for **mid 2017** and will provide core demographic characteristics, such as age, sex, country of birth, personal income, education and need for assistance.

The second data release is scheduled for **late 2017** and will include characteristics that require more time for complex processing, such as industry of employment, occupation and labour force status.












The third release includes highly specialised products, such as Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA). This release is planned for **2018**.

Further information about topics included in each release are detailed in the topic release

schedule section in Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016 (cat. no. 2008.0).

Exact dates and details of data items included in each release will be available in the publication *Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001) due for release in the first half of 2016.

INTENDED RELEASE SCHEDULE

Data products		Intended release date
	QuickStats	First data release - mid 2017 Second data release - late 2017
	Community Profiles	First data release - mid 2017 Second data release - late 2017
	DataPacks	First data release - mid 2017 Second data release - late 2017
	TableBuilder Basic and Pro	First data release - mid 2017 Second data release - late 2017
	Census Sample File	Third release - 2018
	Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset	Third release - 2018
Reference and analytical products		Intended release date
	How Australia Takes a Census	March 2016
	Census Dictionary	May 2016
	Census Analytical Articles	Progressively released from mid 2017
	Census Data Quality Statements	Progressively released from mid 2017
	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas	Third release - 2018

About this Release

Provides information about the proposed products for 2016 Census data dissemination.
Invites user views on the proposals.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 21/10/2015.

27/6/2017

Added a note and link to the Introduction page saying this product has been superseded by Products and Services publication

21/10/2015

Correction made to the reference years for the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACLD	Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset
ACMID	Australian Census Migrants Integrated Dataset
ASGC	Australian Statistical Geographical Classification
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
CSF	Census Sample File
CSV	Comma Separated Values
CURF	Confidentialised Unit Record File
GIS	Geographical Information System
LGA	Local Government Area
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SLA	Statistical Local Area

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